[6th February 1924

Irrigation.

Appeal from the inhabitants of the villages irrigated by the Red Hills Lake.

156 Q.—Rao Bahadur C. NATESA MUDALIYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government have received any appeal from the inhabitants of the villages irrigated by the Red Hills Lake; and

(b) if the answer is in the affirmative, what action the Government intend taking upon it?

A.—(a) Yes.

(b) The memorial has been referred to the Superintending Engineer, Madras Circle, for report.

The repair of major and minor tanks and kuntas in Anantapur district.

157 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of Government tanks both major and minor and kuntas in Anantapur district when the East India Company first took possession of the district;

(b) how many of these have fallen into disrepair and how many have been completely abandoned since;

(c) how many of these in disrepair do the Government propose to repair now or in the near future;

(d) how many of the existing tanks and kuntas are in good repair with capacity undiminished, and how many of these have been reduced in their capacity and to what extent; and

(e) if figures are not available for such an anterior time, whether the Government will be pleased to give the earliest possible figures?

A.—(a) & (b) Government have no information.

(c) To the end of 1922–23, 758 estimates had been prepared under the Tank Restoration Scheme aggregating Rs. 10,06,992 for repairing minor tanks, but these were not abandoned tanks. The estimates mostly provide for the improvement of existing tanks.

(d) Government are not aware of any reduction of the ayacuts under tanks. There is a natural tendency for the capacity of tanks to diminish owing to accumulation of silt. This process is very slow and its exact amount is not known.

Removal of silt from tank-beds by ryots.

158 Q.—Mr. G. RAMESWARA RAO: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state whether there is any objection to ryots removing silt from tank-beds, and, if so, the grounds for the said objection, and if it is allowed under certain restrictions, what are the terms?

A.—Ryots are at liberty to remove silt from the beds of tanks free of charge for *bona fide* domestic or agricultural purpose, and on payment of seigniorage for other purposes provided that no damage is caused to the tanks by such excavation and that in the case of tanks in charge of the Public Works Department the previous permission of the subdivision officer is obtained.